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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

OSMAN, RAMY M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2157

DATE MAILED: 06/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/919,605	ISTVAN, ANTHONY F.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Ramy M. Osman	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 March 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-39 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. This communication is responsive to application filed on March 20, 2006. Claims 1-39 are pending.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 3/20/06 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
3. Applicant argues that Cragun does not teach "wherein the plurality of client systems are associated with a household".

In reply, Applicants claim language is broad where 'household' has not been contextualized and is therefore interpreted to be the collaborative bookmark list. Claim limitation state "client systems associated with a household" as opposed to "client systems in a household". This allows for broad interpretation, where one of the definitions of household is 'a commonality shared between units'. In this case, the collaborative bookmark list is the commonality.

4. Applicant argues that Cragun does not teach "wherein the plurality of client systems are logical extensions of each other".

In reply, Applicant has used broad language such as "logical extension of each other". A "logical extension" is simply interpreted to mean a type of virtual relationship where they are not directly connected. Client systems that collaborate over the Internet have a virtual collaborative relationship and are not directly connected to each other. The claim limitation is broad and is thus broadly interpreted.

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5. Applicant argues that Cragun does not teach “wherein the household is configurable to be associated with a plurality of user objects”.

In reply, again Applicants claim language is broad and is thus broadly interpreted. The user objects are interpreted to be the entries in the collaborative bookmark list that each user adds to it. Thus the bookmark list is associated with the user entries. The claim limitations have failed to contextualize user objects and thus allows for broad interpretation.

6. Applicant argues that Cragun does not teach “a revision history that includes a ticket number associated with each configuration change included in the revision history”.

In reply, Applicant is claiming ticket numbers which are nothing more than a way of labeling configuration changes. Cragun teaches labeling configuration changes as nominate, approve and more records. How the configuration changes are labeled, whether numerically, alphabetically, or alphanumerically, is irrelevant.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. **Claims 1-33,38,39 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Cragun (US Patent No 6,557,028).**

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9. In reference to claims 1,11,20,38, Cragun teaches a system, method, machine readable medium, and an apparatus to view multimedia content, all respectively comprising:

a broadcast center capable of being communicatively coupled to a network (column 1 lines 14-55 and column 2 lines 60-65); and

a plurality of client systems coupled to the broadcast center (column 2 lines 60-67), wherein the plurality of client systems are associated with a household (column 2 lines 25-67),

wherein the plurality of client systems are logical extensions of each other (column 3 lines 10-40 and column 3 line 60 – column 4 line 2),

wherein the household is configurable to be associated with a plurality of user objects (column 3 lines 10-40),

wherein a client system of the plurality of client systems is configured to be selectively accessed by a user to change a configuration of a user object of the plurality of user objects that is related to a favorites setting (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55), and

wherein the system is configured to provide the change of the configuration of the user object related to the favorites setting to all of the client systems of the plurality of client systems without further activity from the user (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55).

10. In reference to claim 2, Cragun teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the system is configurable to selectively add a new client system to the plurality of client systems, the system being configured to provide the plurality of user objects, including the favorites setting, to the new client system without activity from a user (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55).

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11. In reference to claim 3, Cragun teaches the system of claim 1 wherein a user object of the plurality of user objects can be concurrently active in more than one client system of the plurality of client systems (column 2 lines 25-60 and column 3 lines 20-67).

12. In reference to claim 4, Cragun teaches the system of claim 1, further comprising a server operatively coupled to the plurality of client systems, wherein the server is configured to include information related to each user object of the plurality of user objects, including the favorites setting (column 2 line 60 – column 3 line 10).

13. In reference to claims 5,12, Cragun teaches the system, method of corresponding claims 4,11 wherein the server is configured to include a revision history, the revision history being configurable to include information related to configuration changes of the plurality of user objects, including changes to the favorites setting (column 6 lines 37-60).

14. In reference to claims 6,13,14,21, Cragun teaches the system, method, and machine readable medium corresponding to claims 5,12,20 wherein the revision history includes a ticket number associated with each configuration change that is included in the revision history (column 6 lines 37-60).

15. In reference to claims 7,22, Cragun teaches the system and machine readable medium of corresponding claims 4,20 wherein the server is capable to provide configuration changes to the plurality of client systems in response to a request for the configuration changes sent from at least one of the client systems (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

16. In reference to claims 8,23, Cragun teaches the system and machine readable medium of corresponding claims 4,20 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the client systems, the server is capable to provide configuration changes to the plurality of client systems if such

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configuration changes are received by the server from at least one of the client systems (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

17. In reference to claim 9, Cragun teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the favorites setting includes an address associated with the network (column 1 lines 14-24 and column 3 lines 21-25).

18. In reference to claim 10, Cragun teaches the system of claim 1 wherein the favorites setting includes a television channel (column 1 lines 14-24 and column 3 lines 21-25, it is well-known that TV channels/stations have their own websites).

19. In reference to claim 24, Cragun teaches the machine readable medium of claim 21 wherein the configuration information includes values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to the favorites setting, to:

set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting; and provide the bit vector to one of the access devices (column 4 lines 1-30 and column 7 lines 40-60).

20. In reference to claims 15,31,39, Cragun teaches a control system and a method to provide access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the control system comprising:

a server to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices (column 2 line 60 – column 3 line 10),

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device (column 1 lines 30-55),

wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55), and

wherein the server is capable to provide the received configuration information, including the favorites setting, to another access device of the plurality of access devices (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55).

21. In reference to claims 16,32, Cragun teaches the control system and method of respective claims 15,31, wherein the server is further capable to receive revised configuration information related to the user object via one of the access devices of the plurality of access devices, the revised configuration information including a revision to the favorites setting, and to provide the received revised configuration information, including the revision to the favorites setting, to all of the access devices of the plurality of access devices (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-67).

22. In reference to claims 17,33, Cragun teaches the control system and method of respective claims 16,32 wherein the server is capable to assign a ticket number to the revised configuration information and to store the ticket number in a revision history (column 6 lines 37-60).

23. In reference to claims 18, Cragun teaches the control system of claim 16 wherein the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the plurality of access devices in response to a request for the revised configuration information sent from at least one of the access devices.

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24. In reference to claim 19, Cragun teaches the control system of claim 16 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the access devices, the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the plurality of access devices if such revised configuration information is received by the server from at least one of the access devices (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

25. In reference to claims 25,28, Cragun teaches an update method, machine readable medium to respectively provide configuration information related to user object of a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the configuration information including values for a plurality of configuration parameters, at least one of the configuration parameters being related to a favorites setting, the method comprising:

receiving a portion of the configuration information including the favorites setting via an access device of the plurality of access devices (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55);

assigning a ticket number to the received portion of the configuration information; storing the ticket number in a revision history (column 6 lines 37-60); and

providing the ticket number to the access device (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

26. In reference to claims 26,29, Cragun teaches the update method, machine readable medium of respective claims 25,28, further comprising:

setting a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to

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the favorites setting; and providing the bit vector to the access device (column 4 lines 1-30 and column 7 lines 40-60).

27. In reference to claims 27,30, Cragun teaches the update method, machine readable medium of respective claims 26,29, further comprising providing the portion of the configuration information to a second access device of the plurality of access devices (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

28. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

29. Claims 34-37 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cragun (US Patent No 6,557,028) in view of Ellis et al (US Patent No 6,898,762).

30. In reference to claim 34, Cragun teaches an apparatus to coordinate settings to access content available via system, the system having connectivity to a plurality of access devices and capable to provide the plurality of access devices with access to a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a server located in the system and capable to communicate with each access device in the plurality of access devices via a communication protocol suitable to each access device (column 2 line 60 – column 3 line 10),

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wherein the server is capable to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via one of access device of the plurality of access devices according to the communication protocol for that access device (column 1 lines 30-55),

wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device, wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55),

wherein the at least one favorites setting includes an address associated with a location in the communication network where the content can be accessed by the access device or including a channel among the plurality of channels of the system (column 1 lines 14-24 & 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55),

wherein the server is capable to provide the configuration information received from the access device, including the favorites setting having the address or the channel, to another access device of the plurality of access devices without further activity from the user according to a communication protocol suitable to that access device (column 1 lines 14-24 & 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55).

Cragun fails to teach wherein the system is an interactive video casting system having a plurality of channels. However, Ellis teaches a client-server interactive TV system for access devices to set viewer preferences, wherein each access device interacts with a server (column 2 lines 1-45, column 4 line 50 – column 5 line 25, and column 9 lines 1-20). It would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Cragun by making the system an interactive video casting system so that access devices can set viewer preferences.

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31. In reference to claim 35, Cragun teaches the apparatus of claim 34 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the access devices, the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the another access devices if such revised configuration information is received by the server (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

32. In reference to claim 36, Cragun teaches an apparatus to coordinate settings to access content available via a system, the system having connectivity to a plurality of access devices and capable to provide the plurality of access devices with access to a communication network, the apparatus comprising:

a server located in the system and capable to communicate with each access device in the plurality of access devices via a communication protocol suitable to each access device (column 2 line 60 – column 3 line 10),

wherein the server is capable to receive configuration information related to a user object from a user via one of access device of the plurality of access devices according to the communication protocol for that access device, wherein the configuration information defines multimedia content that can be accessed via instantiation of the user object in the access device, wherein the configuration information further defines at least one favorites setting for that access device (column 1 lines 30-55 and column 2 line 60 – column 3 line 10),

wherein the at least one favorites setting includes an address associated with a location in the communication network where the content can be accessed by the access device or including a channel among the plurality of channels of the system (column 1 lines 14-24 & 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55),

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wherein the server is capable to provide the configuration information received from the access device, including the favorites setting having the address or the channel, to another access device of the plurality of access devices without further activity from the user according to a communication protocol suitable to that access device (column 1 lines 14-24 & 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55), the server further being capable to:

assign a ticket number to a portion of the received configuration information (column 6 lines 37-60);

store the ticket number in a revision history (column 6 lines 37-60);

provide the ticket number to the access device that sent the configuration information (column 1 lines 14-24 & 30-55, column 3 lines 10-55 and column 6 lines 37-60);

set a bit in a bit vector, the bit vector having a plurality of bits each being associated to a corresponding configuration parameter of the user object, wherein the set bit indicates the configuration parameter associated with the received configuration information and is related to the favorites setting (column 1 lines 14-24 & 30-55 and column 3 lines 10-55, column 4 lines 1-30 and column 7 lines 40-60); and

provide the bit vector to the access device that sent the configuration information (column 4 lines 1-30 and column 7 lines 40-60).

Cragun fails to teach wherein the system is an interactive video casting system having a plurality of channels. However, Ellis teaches a client-server interactive TV system for access devices to set viewer preferences, wherein each access device interacts with a server (column 2 lines 1-45, column 4 line 50 – column 5 line 25, and column 9 lines 1-20). It would have been

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obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Cragun by making the system an interactive video casting system so that access devices can set viewer preferences.

33. In reference to claim 37, Cragun teaches the apparatus of claim 36 wherein, independent of a request from any one of the access devices, the server is capable to provide the revised configuration information including the revision to the favorites setting to the another access devices if such revised configuration information is received by the server (column 1 lines 45-55 and column 3 lines 50-67).

34. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ramy M. Osman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4008. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9-5.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Etienne can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

RMO
June 12, 2006


ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER